
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire
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**SENATOR GREGG ANNOUNCES \$216,768 TO THE FRIENDS PROGRAM
IN CONCORD FOR AT-RISK YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg today announced that The Friends Program in Concord has been awarded a \$216,768 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to expand its Junior/Senior friends program, which partners middle school youth involved with the legal system or other at-risk behavior, with adults in the community. These relationships provide youth with positive role-models instead of relying on the educational or justice systems to respond to incidents involving troubled youths. Senator Gregg is the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for the U.S. Department of Justice and contacted the DOJ in support of The Friends Program earlier this year.

Senator Gregg stated, "For over twenty-five years, The Friends Program has matched thousands of volunteer adults with young people who need support. With these additional resources being provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, they will match an additional 140 at-risk youths with mentors in the targeted communities. The Friends Program continuously demonstrates the profound impact they have had on the junior friends and this initiative will build on a track record of successes, including improvements in academic performance, confidence, self-worth, and interpersonal skills. Because of their proven commitment and effectiveness, the Friends Program can use these resources to reach deeper into the communities they serve."

Jim Doremus, Executive Director of the Friends Program, stated, "The importance of mentoring, which has been validated through national research, has been proven to make the difference for children who are in danger of falling through the cracks. The JUMP Grant will allow The Friends Program to bring the power and benefits of youth mentoring to communities that currently are vastly underserved."

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